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Posse Flies To Philippines In Chase

By Diane Maddex
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SAIPAN: — Johannes R. Taimanao, Marianas Political Status Commission member from Rota, has been charged with stealing \$4,345 in Trust Territory government funds and fleeing to the Philippines.

Taimanao, an administrative specialist for the Marianas District on Rota, allegedly cashed a government petty cash check for that amount at the Bank of Hawaii's Saipan branch Jan. 11 and then flew to Manila.

A complaint issued Feb. 1 charges him with grand theft and embezzlement. Marianas District Attorney William S. Amsbary left Saipan for the Philippines Sunday in an effort

to arrest Taimanao.

Traveling with Amsbary are Saipan Police Capt. Jose P. Mafnas and businessman Herman T. Palacios, owner of Saipan's Da Plate night club.

One attorney on Saipan said yesterday, however, that the TT has "absolutely no jurisdiction" to issue a warrant for an arrest in Manila. Because there are no formal treaties or extradition legislation between the two countries, he said, "a TT arrest warrant in Manila has about the same legal effect as a Japanese parking ticket stuck on the windshield of a Toyota in New York City."

Trust Territory Attorney General Richard I. Miyamoto said the Philippine government could decide to honor the warrant voluntarily.

The first attorney also suggested Taimanao's visa would expire in a few days, forcing him to return to the TT.

Palacios reportedly was with Taimanao when he first went to the Philippines, so is accompanying Amsbary and Mafnas to help locate him, sources said.

Although he is traveling under an official TT travel authorization, Palacios is paying his own air fare but will receive \$150 per diem from the TT government.

Amsbary and Mafnas were issued travel authorizations of \$436 (each) by Marianas District Administrator Francisco C. Ada and Deputy High Commissioner Peter T. Coleman. The travel orders pertain to the date of their return as Feb. 8.

Also accompanying them are Det. Louis Cepeda of the Marianas Police, who is paying his own way and is not on official business, and Mrs. Amsbary. Taimanao and Benjamin T. Manglona are Rota's representatives on the Status Commission.

Marianas Lessors In Limbo

By R. GFT

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